

## ***Salmonella* Newport Infections Associated with a Birthday Party**

June

Beltrami County

On June 22, 2011, two patients with laboratory-confirmed infections with *Salmonella* Newport pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern NEW17 were identified as part of routine surveillance. The cases were interviewed on July 1 and 7, and both reported becoming ill after attending a birthday party held on June 5 and that additional attendees had also become ill after the event. An investigation was initiated immediately.

All *Salmonella* cases in Minnesota are routinely interviewed about potential exposures, including foods consumed at home and outside the home, as part of routine surveillance. Interviews of *Salmonella* cases with isolates that are indistinguishable by PFGE are compared to identify potential common exposures. Information gathered during routine interviews is reviewed by an MDH epidemiologist.

The initial case provided a list of names and phone numbers for additional birthday party attendees and foods served at the event.

A confirmed case was defined as an individual from whom *S. Newport* NEW17 was isolated since June 1, 2011. A probable case was defined as an individual who developed fever and diarrhea ( $\geq 3$  loose stools in a 24-hour period) after eating at the birthday party.

Five birthday party attendees were interviewed; two confirmed cases and one probable case were identified. Case illness onsets were June 6 or June 7. Three additional party attendees who were reported to have illness were lost to follow up. Among the three confirmed and probable cases, all reported bloody diarrhea and cramps, two (67%) reported fever, and one (33%) reported vomiting. The median incubation period for the three birthday parties was 33 hours (range, 18 to 36 hours). The median duration of illness was 7 days (range, 7 to 28 days). One case was hospitalized for 7 days.

The small number of cases and controls precluded a meaningful case-control study of birthday party attendees, and no food items were associated with illness. The meal consisted of fried and grilled chicken, coleslaw, and potato salad purchased from a restaurant, salami, sliced cheddar cheese, crackers, ice cream, birthday cake, and cupcakes. Some of the food, specifically the chicken, cheese and crackers, was also served at a church group gathering the following evening (June 6). All of the interviewed party attendees also attended this event. No additional cases were reported or found through routine surveillance.

This was a foodborne outbreak of *S. Newport* NEW17 infections associated with a birthday party and identified through routine disease surveillance. The food vehicle was not identified because sufficient subjects could not be reached to conduct a full investigation.